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June 13, 2017

## Fostering Our Youth



Dear Friends,

May was National Foster Care Month, and to celebrate, I participated in Congress's annual Foster Youth Shadow Day. Shadow Day provides children and young adults who have lived in the foster care system a chance to share their own perspectives and experiences with their representatives in Washington, D.C. I hosted Kennath Forsyth-Sears, a Cranston resident who was placed in the foster care system when he was 11 and was moved to over 10 placement homes. Now 18 years old, Kennath aspires to work with children with disabilities. He is a bright and compassionate young man, who has overcome many hurdles throughout his life.

While shadowing me for the day in D.C., Kennath discussed the challenges he faced while in foster care. As a transgender man, he explained that it was difficult to find an accepting family. During his visit, Kennath also joined me in a meeting with Rhode Island constituents and attended a Foster Youth Shadow Day luncheon.

In Congress, I am a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster

Join the Conversation:



## Save The Date

### LUNCH WITH LANGEVIN

*Quarterly update for constituents*

June 17, 12:30-2:30pm  
The Breachway Grill  
1 Charlestown Beach Rd  
Charlestown

## Did You Know...?

### VALUING THE VA

The Providence VA Medical Center is now ranked 9th out of 146 rated VA Medical Centers across the country.  
>>

### FAST FACT

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. Learn more about this disease and efforts to end Alzheimer's. >>

## In Other News

### FIXING OUR BRIDGES

Youth, and I've worked to address many of the obstacles faced by children in the foster care system. In 2011, I authored legislation that mandated free credit checks for foster youth before they age out of the system and required credit monitoring companies to provide assistance in clearing any inaccuracies from their records.

I grew up in a home where my parents served as foster parents to several youth, and that has helped shape my perspective on the difference a loving home can make in the life of a child. All children need the support and love of a family, yet finding "forever families" for foster youth remains one of our biggest challenges. Kennath is a reminder of why we must ensure all children are given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

To learn more about Foster Youth Shadow Day, visit [my website](#) and [blog](#) and follow me on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

Sincerely,

*Jim Langevin*



### **Paris Climate Agreement**

The future of our planet is at risk following the President's decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, an accord that includes nearly every country on earth. Leaving the agreement represents an abandonment of pledges to protect our environment and risks ceding the US's role as a world leader on climate change. Our state is on the front lines of sea level rise, and Rhode Islanders are already experiencing the effects of a warming climate.



### **Memorial Day**

Memorial Day weekend may be the kickoff to summer, but, more importantly, it's also a day to reflect on the bravery and sacrifice of service members. To honor those who died protecting our country, I attended Operation Stand Down Rhode Island's Boots on the Ground Memorial. This breathtaking tribute honors the fallen heroes of the global war on terror. We must continue to pay tribute to our greatest patriots even after Memorial Day passes by honoring their families and helping them manage their loss.

Rep. Langevin introduced the SAFE Bridges Act, which would authorize an additional \$2.75 billion annually to fix structurally deficient bridges across the country. >>

### **SUPPORTING FAMILY CAREGIVERS**

Rep. Langevin, co-chair of the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus, introduced the Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act to provide relief to family members who are caring for aging or disabled loved ones. >>

### **A SPECIAL APPOINTMENT**

Rep. Langevin applauded the Deputy Attorney General's decision to appoint a special counsel to investigate ties between the President, his campaign, and Russia. >>

### **FIGHTING CYBER ATTACKS**

Rep. Langevin discussed the 'WannaCry' ransomware attacks and other cybersecurity issues on C-SPAN's *Newsmakers*. >>

### **BUDGET WOES**

Rep. Langevin condemned President Trump's Fiscal Year 2018 budget for its drastic cuts to programs that help everyday Americans. >>

### **STRENGTHENING CTE**

Rep. Langevin, co-chair of the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, joined a bipartisan group of lawmakers to introduce a bill to increase investment and help support CTE programs. >>

### **LESSENING THE BURDEN**

Rep. Langevin introduced the PLUS Loan Disability Forgiveness Act to provide debt relief for parents whose children become permanently disabled. >>

**PRIVACY STATEMENT:**

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